



For the enjoyment and edification of model railroad operators



Classy Progressive Rail SD38-2 joins TCWR ops loco roster on North Star Intermodal train

Eric Carlson's Dakotabranch custom painting and decorating skills were evident as PGR #42 debuted this month, hauling corn shipments in containers from the loading platform at Montevideo east to the Twin Cities for interchange and eventual overseas shipment. (below): The container train blasts pass the Granite Falls Energy ethanol plant before heading down grade and through Olivia on its way east. Rumors abound that the CPR/ICE rail contract for corn, ethanol, and DDG traffic at Granite Falls is in jeopardy. A portion of the outbound ethanol and DDG already goes west via TCWR to BNSF interchange at Appleton. *photos by Richard Dahl*





Crews complete tasks and wrap up March ops session in good shape

(left) Conductor Tim Smith and engineer Bill McKean deliver westbound cars to Glencoe Yard, then plan their moves to assemble the eastbound train for the return trip to Hopkins. Additional crews on the West End Turn were also busy switching on at Montevideo (background) as well as Granite Falls Energy ethanol plant (behind the backdrop)

Rich Dahl photo

(below) The superintendent carefully observed and listened to the crews while they capably completed their jobs this month. The recent March session flowed smoother than the first ones, suggesting that crews are becoming more familiar with the routes and industries on the TCWR *Bill McKean photo*



(above) Twin Cities and Western #302, a CF7, awaits permission to depart on the turn job to Bongards. Along the way the local will work the Minnesota Corn Products ethanol plant at Winthrop and Seneca Foods vegetable canning plant in Arlington before obtaining permission to cross the diamond east of Bongards. There it will complete interchange with the TCW and return with cars for destinations on the MPLI route. An empty Canadian potash covered hopper awaits pickup on the spur just to the north and will become part of the consist heading east from Redwood Falls. *Bill McKean photo*



(above) Downtown Bongards traffic on Main Street seemed busy for Saturday afternoon recently.

Bill McKean photo

A big thank you to contributors of this early spring 2013 issue of *Prairie Ponderings*. Eric Carlson, Richard Dahl, and Bill McKean's photos provide great shots of the action on the TCWR. I also appreciate Eric Carlson's custom paint work on several locomotives, especially the PGR SD38-2, as well as Tim Smith's efforts on the custom TCWR, MPLI, and RRVW locomotives several are in progress. Hats off too to Mike Kaufman for solving the locomotion problem on the MPLI QSI sound unit.

DSED Division Doings

Upcoming area events in and near the Dakota Southeastern Division

April 13 1:00 p.m. DSED monthly meeting at **Wes Garcia's in Sioux Falls**. Check the DSED website for more details. Wes will do a clinic on hand laying turnouts.

April 20 Prairie Lakes Division spring meet at the Spirit Lake Expo Center, 1602 15th Street. Show from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. Meet features the PLD modular layout, clinics, vendors, popular vote model contest, and a business meeting.

May 16-19 Thousand Lakes Region convention in Bloomington, MN, hosted by the Twin Cities Division. Details in your spring issue of The Fusee, which can also be found on-line at www.thousandlakesregion.org.

(right:) Canton library visitors saw model railroading items displayed as well as got a taste of things to come during the week preceding **DSED's first-ever** visit. Nearly 150 guests enjoyed the three hour long event between 10:00 to 1:00 March 2. Photos this page taken by *Richard Dahl*



Honor Roll

Four DSED members earned Achievement Program certificates and a \$50 TLR incentive award recently: Jay Manning, Richard Dahl, Eric Carlson, and David Feller. Congrats to the honorees on their first step toward becoming Master Model Railroaders. Numerous additional members are also eligible upon completing and submitting paperwork.

(below): **Jay Manning's scenery clinic**, **Gary Johnson's N scale portable layout**, and newcomer (age seven) **Erin Hudson's scenery making clinic** highlighted the clinics day debut at the Canton Public Library.

